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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 29, 2007

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NEW DATA AVAILABLE ON ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONTANA TRIBES

MISSOULA –

Economic contributions of Montana's seven reservations and the Little Shell Tribe are significant -- \$1,028,089,317 for fiscal year 2003 -- according to the latest issue of the Montana Business Quarterly.

Published by The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Research, the autumn issue features never-before-collected data regarding the economic contributions of Montana's American Indian tribes to the state.

Funded by the State-Tribal Economic Development Committee, author Eleanor YellowRobe reviewed audited financial statements and government documents to obtain data concerning tribal and related activities. The article, "Reservation Revenues: Uncovering Economic Contributions of Montana's American Indian Tribes," is a first step at estimating and quantifying the economic impacts of Montana's tribes.

The article presents a summary of tribal monetary contributions by reservation area, plus the Little Shell Tribe, which has no reservation. Activities associated with the Flathead Reservation accounted for the largest share at about \$317 million or 30.9 percent of the total. The Fort Belknap Reservation was the smallest, with about \$76 million or 7.4 percent.

"Montana's American Indian tribes have long been important components of the state's political and social landscape," said BBER Director Paul Polzin. "Recently, the economic

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contributions of the tribes and associated activities such as the Indian Health Service, school districts and tribal businesses to state and local economies have also received attention.”

“Reservation Revenues” is just one of four articles found in the autumn Montana Business Quarterly, which covers important issues regarding Montana’s economy.

Economist Krista Gebert, with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, explores climate change, private development and human factors to determine why the cost of protecting Montana during fire season is rising and what can be done about it in “Wildfire Suppression Costs.” Nationwide, costs continually top \$1 billion, and here in Montana lawmakers allocated \$42 million to pay for fire suppression this year alone, Gebert wrote.

In “Selections, Dispositions, and Acquisitions: A Brief History of Montana’s Land Grants,” Tom Schultz explains the complex history of Montana’s land grants and what past successes and failures mean for the future.

Finally, Amy Joyner tells the story of one innovative Montanan’s new venture in “Whitefish Entrepreneur Launches Montana into Radio’s New Age.”

For more information about the Montana Business Quarterly, write The University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Missoula, MT 59812; call 406-243-5113; or go online to <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

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